(d) The present political scenario does not appear to have affected achievement of growth targets. It may be seen from the table below, that the growth target has not been achieved only in the first year of the Plan (2002-03). The main reason for non-achievement of the target in 2002-03 is the effect of poor monsoon in that year on agriculture which recorded a growth of (-) 6.9%.

Sector-wise growth rates during Tenth Plan Period

S. No.	Sectors	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	Agriculture	-6.9	10.0	0.7	2.3
2	Industry	7.0	7.6	8.6	9.0
3	Services	7.3	8.2	9.9	9.8
4	GDP (at market prices)	3.6	8.3	8.5	8.5

(e) Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on 'Household Consumer Expenditure' conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The last such Survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (55th Round). The next survey has been conducted by NSSO in the year 2004-05 (61st Round) for which data has not been received.

Private investments in Inland Water Transport System

2801. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government to develop the Inland Water Transport System in the country and whether any sanction has been sought by the Government of Kerala to implement any project to develop the inland water transport facilities in the State and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any proposals to attract private investment in this sector are pending; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the length of inland waterways in Kerala which is navigable by mechanically propelled vessels and the stretch which requires renovation for transport facilities?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Development of only those inland waterways which are declared as National Waterways come under the purview of the Central Government. The development and regulation of the waterways other than national waterways is the responsibility of the respective state governments. An amount of Rs. 362.22 lakhs has been sanctioned for the project namely "Revival of Veli-Kovalam stretch of TS Canal" submitted by the State Govt. of Kerala. A sum of Rs. 65.30 lakhs has been released so far to the State Govt. to this project.

(b) The Government has approved an Inland Water Transport Policy according to which, Inland Waterways of India (IWAI) can enter into Joint Venture for encouraging investment in this sector. 17 priority projects were short-listed for private sector participation. Out of these, bids were invited for 11 projects. At present bids received for 8 proposals are under examination.

(c) The total length of navigable inland waterways in Kerala is 1548 Kilometres.

Payment of Provident Fund to Seafarers

2802. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the Seafarers' demand for settlement of Rs. 92.73 crores of their Provident Fund money that got lost in a scam four years ago;

(b) whether a court had asked Government to come out with its answer on the demand of Seafarers' union by the 16th January, 2006; and

(c) whether Government had earlier committed to one-time payment of SPF money and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The matter for recoupment of the Seamen's Provident Fund is still under consideration. The Hon'ble Mumbai High Court had by its order dated 12.12.2005 directed the Union of India to take